UN Bulletin

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DRUG ABUSE IN NAMIBIA– CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

EXCLUSIVE **ALIOUNE BLONDIN BEYE ON PEACE IN ANGOLA**

MORE ON UN AGENCIES OPERATING IN NAMIBIA

"YES TO LIFE - NO TO DRUGS"

26 JUNE - INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

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UN BULLETIN

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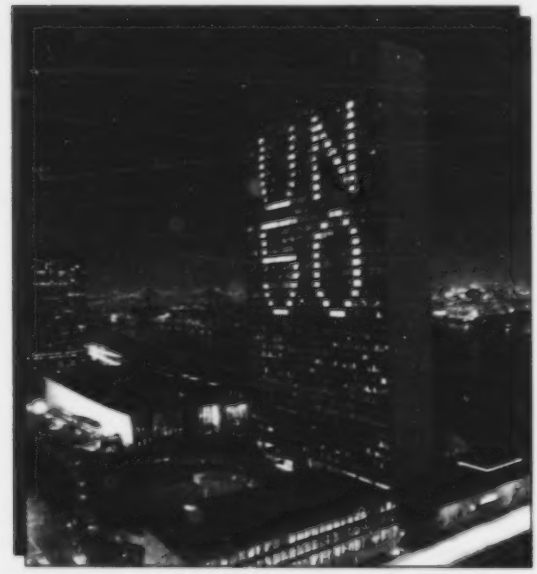

The way I see it:
An illustration of drug and alcohol abuse in Namibian society by Namibian-born artist Joe Madiba. Through his art, Joe believes he can work towards better integration between humans and the earth. He feels deeply rooted in the Namibian culture and sees his contributions as a way of promoting harmony.

Right:
The Secretariat building of the United Nations Headquarters lit in commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary in New York, USA.
Today, the United Nations is an organisation of 185 nations – nearly every country on the planet – legally committed to supporting the principles and purposes set out in its Charter, including the eradication of war, promotion of human rights, respect for justice and international law, and promotion of social progress and friendly relations among nations.

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A burden no society can afford to carry

Since earliest times, the human race has used herbs, roots, barks and leaves to relieve pain and help control disease. In itself, the use of drugs does not constitute an evil; drugs, properly administered, have been a medical blessing. Unfortunately, certain drugs also initially produce enticing side effects, such as feelings of euphoria, serenity and power. What began as something of a recreational activity evolved in time into a problem of dependence and abuse.

Over the past two decades, the use of illegal drugs has spread at an unprecedented rate and has reached every part of the globe. This growth can be attributed to a variety of factors, including a lack of credible information about the dangers of drug use, increased availability, limited law enforcement activities with insufficient deterrents, and a lack of awareness of the dimensions of the problem.

Despite recent success in some parts of the world in controlling the supply, diversion and trafficking of illegal drugs, the scope of the narcotics problem transcends law enforcement and public health questions, posing a threat to the security and integrity of nations and regions. The narcotics trade undermines governments and officials through corruption, intimidation and economic destabilization. The erratic ebb and flow and sheer volume of 'drug money' have a disruptive effect on the supply of money and exchange markets. Moreover, the threat posed to individuals the world over by drug-related acts of terrorism is very real.

Over the last 80 years, a worldwide system for the control of drugs has developed gradually through the adoption of a series of international treaties. The important multilateral conventions currently in force are the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol; the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971; and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, adopted in 1988. Each successive treaty brought complementary regulations and advances in international law.

In 1991, the UN International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was established, following a General Assembly resolution requesting the creation of a single programme incorporating the three former UN drug units, i.e. the Division of Narcotic Drugs; the UN Fund for Drug Abuse Control; and the International Narcotics Control Board.

UNDCP ACTIVE IN NAMIBIA

Headquartered in Vienna, Austria, UNDCP has been active in Namibia since 1992. A programme was developed to assist the Namibian government check the spread of drug abuse and trafficking, which included technical support to the Drug Enforcement Bureau of NAMPOL, the Directorate of Customs and Excise in the Ministry of Finance and the Directorate of Immigration in the Ministry of Home Affairs. Current support entails procurement of equipment, training in surveillance techniques and drug trends as well as providing consultants for drug control activities in Namibia.

UNDCP was instrumental in the establishment of the Forensic Science Laboratory in Windhoek for testing seized materials. Increased in-country training is also planned for the second half of 1995, focusing on drug law enforcement and the theory and art of prosecution. These activities are aimed at improving border checkpoints, improving identification and analysis of seized drugs and assisting government in drafting a national drug policy and control master plan.

Bulletin Overview

By C. Finjap Njinga, Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Windhoek.

"Yes to life, no to drugs". In spite of its obvious appeal, that slogan, coined a few years ago, does not seem to have had an impact on the use and abuse of drugs around the world. Notwithstanding a relentless intentional campaign against drug trafficking and abuse, the problem has only worsened. Countries and regions which previously paid little attention to this social and economic issue, are now joining hands to fight against what has now become a global concern.

As the world commemorates the International Day against Drug Trafficking and Abuse, on 26 June, Dr Johnny Strijdom, Chairperson of Namibia's National Drug Control Commission, reflects on the combined problem of drug and alcohol abuse in Namibia. His contribution also examines the issue of what constitutes drug abuse, and briefly looks at global trends in drug and alcohol abuse.

Much has been said and written about the perceived helplessness of the United Nations when parties in conflict do not show the willingness to use the conflict resolution mechanisms of the world body. However, created to prevent war where possible, and to stop it where it has occurred, the United Nations has persisted in its search for peace in the most impossible circumstances.

The experience in Angola is a case in point, where the Organisation has persisted against great odds to fulfil its role as a mechanism for peaceful solutions to conflicts.

The present issue of the ***Bulletin*** provides a first hand account of the tortured search for peace in Africa's longest and most costly internal conflict. Maitre Blondin Beye, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, reviews the historical background to the conflict, and provides an inside view of events leading to the "decisive turning point" that now opens the way for Angolans to reconcile with each other and start rebuilding their country.

Other topics covered in this issue include the introduction of projects undertaken by the various United Nations agencies operative in Namibia and in the opinion pages, Bankie Forster Bankie questions the permanence and veto authority of individual countries within the UN Security Council which leaves Africa out in the cold.

DRUG ABUSE IN NAMIBIA

Conspiracy of Silence

Although Namibians have largely escaped the evil of 'hard drug' addiction so far, there is an alarming increase in alcohol and tobacco abuse which cuts across all ethnic groups, social classes, gender and age. Despite, or maybe because of this, there is a remarkable see-no-evil speak-no-evil attitude about what has been described as a collective Namibian culture of drinking — a trend that could be reversed through frank and thorough discourse.

The lead article and case study was written by Dr Johnny Strijdom, Chairperson of the National Drug Control Commission of Namibia and Head of the Department of Social Work and Community Development at the University of Namibia.

On Monday, 26 June 1995, International Drug Awareness Day will be observed in all United Nations member states across the globe. This day was instituted to focus attention on the menace of alcohol and drug abuse with all its devastating ripple effects on the individual, families, societal groups, neighbourhoods and national economies. The UN considers substance abuse and illegal drug trafficking as a major force in uprooting individual physical and mental health and societal morals. Considering all the problems identified around the globe, the UN therefore declared the 1990's the UN Decade Against Drug Abuse.

Advance in modern twentieth century technology has resulted in at least three periods of profound social change. The first can be referred to as the Atomic or Nuclear Age which started off in the 1930's and produced its first dramatic result at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Electronic Age originated in the 1960's and saw the introduction of complex computer technology which caused reductions in manpower requirements.

The third period is typified as the New Chemical Age and its novelties became part of everyday life. Examples are domestic chemicals, industrial processing chemicals, pesticides, synthetic fibres, bulk plastics and drugs. Since the impact of this period was much less dramatic than the previous two, people initially underestimated the severity of problems associated with it. Today, it is realized that chemicals lead to the destruction of both the environment and the human being. Of the mentioned products, drugs affect the human body and mind most directly they are physically taken into the body.

According to popular thinking, the concept of drugs usually involves two related connotations. The first is that of medicine, and the second of a substance which has an effect on the body and mind, although not purposefully taken as a medicine.

The definition by Blaze-Gosden embraces most of the elements of the mentioned concept: "... 'drug' means any chemical or plant-derived substance which can cause any person using it to experience mental, emotional, or physical change, and the use of which for these purposes is illegal". The notion that using a drug brings about changes in consciousness or state of mind, producing an emotional effect or change of mood, is the cornerstone regarding the concept 'drug'.

Drugs are considered either legal – although controlled or taxed by the government like alcohol and tobacco; or legal and prescribed by physicians e.g. diazepam, barbiturates; or illegal in the case of dagga, heroin, etc. The connotation of illegality comes from the wrong reasons for which these drugs are used. Examples are when the legal drug, alcohol, is used for the purpose of becoming intoxicated or drunk, or when prescribed barbiturates are used to become 'kicked' or 'bombed'.

" Drug abuse can be defined as the excessive or addictive use of mood-altering drugs for non-medical purposes. In other words, any drug that is used for too long, for the wrong reasons, and in excessive doses, is being abused "

Some experts go as far as saying that, because of their nature and devastating influence, all drugs should in fact be termed illegal. Surely, these opinions reflect the common concern about the rate at which most drugs are misused in society nowadays. Unfortunately, public attitudes have shown no responsible shift in this direction, despite the evidence of a marked increase of drug-taken for non-medical purposes during the last two decades.

GLOBAL TRENDS IN ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

The world scene regarding drugs points to the following:

➢ All countries in the world have become alcohol and drug producing, drug trafficking and drug consuming.

➢ Drug abuse occurs amongst all age groups and in both sexes in the world population, and the youth and children are the most important target groups for the introduction to drugs.

➢ Children come in contact with drugs at an increasingly earlier age, which makes them more vulnerable in making informed choices as regards drugs.

➢ There is a substantial growth in cross-dependency, especially between illegal drugs with alcohol.

➢ The relation between alcohol/drug abuse and prostitution is still increasing. This, in turn, leads to increased exposure to the AIDS virus.

➢ In countries where the use of cannabis showed a tendency to decline, the use of harder drugs such as heroin and cocaine has increased considerably.

➢ Despite increased success concerning confiscations of drugs, the amount of drugs distributed on the streets has not been reduced.

A CULTURE OF DRINKING

Did you know that an estimated 9,5% of adults in Namibia use alcohol daily. This constitutes abuse since the human body cannot digest alcohol more than four days per week without damage;

■

that 39,5% of adults in Namibia abuse alcohol over weekends. On average, males take in more than 5 units and females more that 2 units (1 unit equals the alcohol content of 1 dumpie of beer) per day, which is also more than the allowed amount of alcohol to prevent bodily damage;

■

that many more women in Namibia have started to use alcohol, which poses a serious threat to the unborn child, and the overall well-being of the family unit;

■

that 85% of the unmarried people with children in Namibia are drinkers;

■

that the use of Disprin, Grandpa and other painkillers has spread dramatically, with 3% of all adult women in Namibia using them daily, which can lead to serious kidney and liver damage;

■

that in Namibian towns there are many more registered outlets for alcohol than for any other commodity;

that 51% of all adults smoke tobacco in Namibia and this can lead to cancer and emphysema;

■

that the transportation of illegal drugs such as dagga, mandrax, cocaine and heroin to and through Namibia has increased up to 300% in the 1990's and the acute lack of knowledge about drugs leads to experimentation and addiction;

■

that 40% of all traumatic surgery cases at Namibian hospitals are alcohol or drug related, and that 30% of Namibian hospital beds are occupied by alcohol and drug related illnesses;

■

that up to 90% of the violents crimes in Namibia are alcohol or drug related, of which roughly 50% are rape cases;

■

that 75% of Namibian out-of-school youths abuse alcohol regularly or occasionally and 8,2% use dagga;

■

that 20% of Namibian school children, from age 13, abuse alcohol occasionally, and 7% take dagga if it is available;

■

that Namibia has been described as an alcohol paradise – and even more disturbing – that the main feature of the collective Namibian culture is drinking.

In Africa, drug abuse is also reaching alarming proportions. Alcohol is still the most abused substance in Africa, followed by tobacco with dagga in the third place. The use of the latter is escalating in the Muslim regions of Africa, where alcohol is prohibited on religious grounds and the same trend is noted in the Arab world.

In recent years, heroin and its derivatives have also been abused in Africa on a large scale. African countries, which once were only transit countries, have now become consumers. According to Mwale and informed sources in the Namibian Drug Enforcement Unit, the African continent has been inundated with heroin. Hiding heroin in cadavers, and swallowing it, has become a common way of transporting the drug.

A profile of abuse in Namibia

Namibia is no exception to the drug trends in Africa, with alcohol being the primary drug of abuse, nicotine second and dagga in third place.

In general, 49% of all adults in Namibia do not abuse alcohol or traditional brews, take dagga, smoke cigarettes or abuse medicines. The other 51% smoke tobacco, and they are prone to abuse alcohol. An estimated 9,5% of adults in Namibia use alcohol daily (which could per definition be considered abuse), and a further 30% abuse alcohol over weekends. The alcoholic population in Namibia is estimated at 40 000 (7,5%) of the total adult population, which is high.

Among the adult population, analgesic use is widespread. These substances (Disprin, Grandpa, etc.) are used daily by approximately 3% of adults, which is quite alarming, and constitutes abuse of these substances.

Dagga is also used by an estimated 2,8% of the adult population, which includes the Mandrax users (1%). However, adults are more involved in the distribution of these drugs.

A factors which clearly play a role in the degree of drug abuse amongst adults, is income. The higher the income, the larger quantities of alcohol will be used. On the other hand, as the second factor, unemployment, or the lack of money, also

STARTING AT THE AGE OF NINE

Shocking levels of abuse amongst schoolchildren

leads to the abuse of alcoholic substances amongst adults, even as a substitute for a meal. The availability of substances of abuse also clearly promote their use. It was reported that in many urban and town areas, there are more licensed bottle stores in urban areas, than any other types of registered business.

The whole issue of shebeens – unlicensed dealers in alcohol in private homes in especially the developing areas – also plays an important role in the availability of alcohol. Even more serious is the evidence that shebeens socialize women into substance abuse behaviour, and these places sell liquor to children under 18 years of age. Research identified alcohol in particular as a lubricant in highly stressed groups of adults in the Namibian society. These groups include the unemployed and the unmarried mothers. Another group under stress are people in the managerial cadre, as well as the semi-skilled and unskilled workers.

The above-mentioned stress, taken care of by substance abuse by the adults, inter alia, results in child neglect and abuse, drunken driving, family physical violence and severe health problems.

In Namibia, the availability of alcohol at workplaces, and the levels of permissiveness to drink there, is very high. The need for primary prevention strategies at workplaces is very great, and employers are eager to co-operate.

STUDENTS TARGETED FOR HARD DRUGS

A large proportion of the Namibian population (71%) is under the age of 30 years. The out-of-school youth and student population in Namibia constitutes 23% of the population, or roughly 300 000 youngsters. According to the Namibian Drug Enforcement Unit, the 19 - 26 age group has been extensively targeted for the introduction of hard drugs during the past year.

Nonetheless, alcohol remains the most abused drug among the out-of-school youth and there is a high level of permissiveness and availability of alcohol. Given the correct circumstances, and money, this group is very prone to indulge in substance abuse.

Dagga is used by an estimated 10% of the out-of-school youth and Mandrax is used by approximately 5% of the population aged 17 to 30 years. According to the DEU there was a great escalation in the use of these substances in 1993 and 1994.

One factor directly influencing drug abuse patterns among the youth at present, is unemployment. The jobless youth has become increasingly involved in the use and distribution of dagga and Mandrax the past year. In addition, a close link between alcohol abuse and the spreading of AIDS has been identified in surveys.

Namibian school children experiment with tobacco and alcohol from the age of 9. This carries on up to the age of 12. At 13 years, a rapid spread in the numbers of children using substances, among both sexes, has been found in recent studies. Given the opportunity, 21,4% of the 13 year olds actively partake in alcohol abuse. The same goes for experimentation with other drugs at age 13. From ages 14 to 16, the numbers of school children involved in drug abuse increases gradually and up to 33% of the 16 year olds take alcohol excessively at occasions.

Nicotine is the second most frequently used drug amongst Namibian school children, with 16,8% using it. Dagga is ranked third, with 7% of the school children using it, then traditional brews (taken excessively by 5,3% of them) in the fourth place. Mandrax follows fifth (3,8%) and inhalants in the sixth place (3%).

It seems that the drug abusers among the school children go through the following sequence in their 'drug career': First they start smoking cigarettes. Then they are introduced to alcohol, followed by inhalants. Dagga follows next, and mandrax is then introduced by the age of 15.

A factor that was singled out in research as clearly influencing the use of drugs amongst school children, was parental patterns. School children who stay with non-family members, or in hostels, as well as those who have a stepparent, are more at risk regarding involvement in drug abuse. The school children's gender also had a bearing on the age in which they started to get involved with drugs. Initially many more girls start taking alcohol than boys, until the age of 18 years, when more boys use alcohol.

COMBATING THE ONSLAUGHT OF DRUGS IN NAMIBIA

" Drug abuse is typical of people feeling controlled or having very few choices in life ..."

Drug and alcohol abuse is a complex phenomenon to deal with. Once people are introduced to the option of changing the way they feel mechanically by way of chemical substances, it is difficult at first to convince them of the existence of a 'natural high' again.

A culture of great expectations about what alcohol or drugs would do for them, easily grows within the group in which it is consumed. The temporary emotional and physical relief or stimulation that drugs produce, is registered as a real or genuinely rewarding experience, which they repeat for the same effect. Soon the user discovers that the physical or mental effect which a drug has on the person consuming it, depends on the type of drug, the amount used, the circumstances in which it is taken, the physical and psychological make-up of the person who is taking it and the expectations of that person. Many then opt for a drug career and maximizing these variables within or for themselves, especially when surrounding social and psychological conditions are not expected to improve.

SHEBEENS A TOKEN OF SUCCESS

In Namibia, there is the expectation of making money by selling of alcohol and drugs. It is considered a token of success and status to be a shebeen or cuca-shop owner nowadays. And it is easy to market these commodities to especially young people who are jobless and far from home. These youngsters – once they are addicted themselves – also become cheap labour in stealing TV's, cars, clothing and other articles in exchange for a next fix of alcohol, dagga or something stronger.

Following Namibia's independence, very strong links have been forged with the drug trafficking and criminal scene beyond the Namibian borders, especially with the north-eastern and southern African countries. There is evidence of cocaine, mandrax and dagga being trafficked through Namibia – and also heroin, as evidenced by local addicts.

The expectation of a quick 'high', amidst heat, hard work and stressful social circumstances, is strongly associated with alcohol abuse in Namibia. This is typical of people feeling controlled, or having very little life choices. Even at the workplace it is expected that their input is not going to improve matters much or influence work decisions. Many believe that labour unions are also controlled nowadays, so alcohol is again the way to "forget the problems".

It has been found in research on community development in Namibian urban settings, that the population mainly fails to identify problems, resulting in weak efforts to mobilize and plan problem-solving action. Alcohol and drug abuse thus functions as a mechanism to "solve problems by forgetting them".

The solution to the complex problem and culture of alcohol and drug abuse, is not to simply have a clamp-down on everybody selling the substances. To control alcohol and drug supply by means of legislation and taxation, is still regarded as important components of a total strategy to combat the problem.

In Namibia, it will be almost impossible to change the prevailing situation in any significant way since it would be too costly to develop the state machinery needed to properly control the trafficking and distribution of alcohol and drugs.

What is called for all over the world, and in Namibia, is demand reduction programmes which equip people to make responsible choices regarding drugs and alcohol. One such ILO/WHO/UNDCP sponsored programme is conducted at some workplaces in Namibia at present. Other efforts are aimed at educating school children on alcohol and drugs. Drug education is most successful when orchestrated and offered by the target groups themselves.

In Namibia, there is political commitment of the highest level to combat drug and alcohol abuse. In 1993, the President has requested the compilation of a masterplan which the National Drug Control Commission has now been completed.

WORLD IS FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE – DEMAND REDUCTION THE ONLY HOPE

In the final analysis, it is evident that across the world, and in Namibia, a losing battle is being fought to control the supply and distribution of alcohol and drugs. Factors on the macro and structural level – unemployment and big money involved – complicate the struggle against reducing the supply of alcohol and drugs.

In terms of demand reduction, a lot more can be done, also in Namibia. From each and every employer, school teacher, community leader, church pulpit and Government Ministry, drug education messages should be conveyed. The community – at least the 49% adults, as well as the 78% school children who don't use substances – should be empowered to open the discussion about alcohol and drug abuse. A community recovery radio station should be opened, and the issues of alcohol, drugs, sex, AIDS, physical and mental health should be debated in terms of shaping a New Happily-sober-and-proud-of-it Age in Namibia. It will be new in that Namibians won't need to look back to their old patterns and ways.

Myth versus fact:

A CASE IN POINT

X is a 40 year old male with a severe alcohol problem. He shares a room with two unemployed friends at the single quarters in the high-density township in Windhoek.

X was brought up in a traditional extended family in Ovambo. He lived in a big kraal with approximately 16 brothers and sisters and cousins, as well as his father, two mothers and two uncles with their wives. At the age of 22, X came to Windhoek to seek employment and started work one year later as a domestic servant. He held this job for eight years, when his employer helped him get employment at an oil company where he worked for the past 10 years. At the age of 32, X started living together with a woman at her parents' house. They lived comfortably, with one son born from the relationship. Because of his drinking, X deserted his family three years ago and moved in with his drinking friends whereafter he went to stay in the single quarters.

X does not keep contact with his family of origin. He says that he still loves them, but that he is ashamed of himself, because of his drinking. He does not have money to share with them, because he badly needs his money to finance his drinking. His ex-girlfriend lives with someone else now, and his child is looked after by the mother's extended family.

Drug history

Since he can remember, X was used to the elders in his kraal drinking traditional mahango beer. As a young man, he was also introduced to this custom. Whilst working in Windhoek as a domestic servant, X started to smoke tobacco regularly. He also experimented with the stronger liquor in the European household. He was very lonely at times, and started to drink more regularly at the age of 27. Most of his salary was spent on alcohol and tobacco. His salary was also much higher at the oil company and he used to drink regularly in the company of his girlfriend's father. At the age of 33, he drank heavily over weekends and at the end of the month. This caused many quarrels at home, and five years later he left his girlfriend. He then started to drink heavily every day and remembers his physical health declining rapidly because of poor nutrition. Later he consumed any kind of alcohol, mostly Tombo, since it was cheap.

In early 1991, X's employer seriously complained about his drinking and advised him to get help. X made contact with a social worker, who arranged for him to receive treatment in a South African institution. The company arranged for X to be detoxificated in the local State Hospital for two weeks. Afterwards, he went to see a traditional healer who gave him leaves to chew whenever he craved for alcohol. X has not touched alcohol for four months now. He also requested not to be sent to an institution in South Africa after friends warned him that he would be 'oppressed' there.

X believes that he is healed from his alcoholism now. What worries him most at the moment, is the bad circumstances in the single quarters where he stays. He is earnestly looking for better accommodation and looks forward to the Christmas season, when he plans to visit his family in Ovambo.

Cultural control measures

In the Ovambo culture there are strict control measures against drug abuse. An alcoholic is regarded as either mad, mentally retarded, or bewitched. The more drug dependent X became, the more he believed this about himself. Because of this, he reached out for help to the traditional healer, and believed that the latter could help him. He did not receive help before, because he isolated himself from his family and friends when he started drinking alone. His employer's concern motivated X to solve his problem. The negative consequences his drinking had on his health also worried X a lot.

Personality functioning

It is clear that X has experienced strong feelings of alienation from everything that is dear to him, especially his family. He felt guilty and ashamed because of his drinking habit. He could not contribute financially to his family, and this took away most of his pride. Apart from the reasons mentioned previously, X's motivation to arrest his alcoholism also stems from the notion he had that he struck "rock bottom" and that he drank himself into the "pig sty" (the single quarters). He still had his job and his family, if he could just stop drinking.

It seems however, that X has not yet been presented with the full facts concerning his condition. The traditional healer did not give him the necessary information regarding alcoholism. For instance, he does not seem to be equipped with an answer on whether to partake in the drinking of traditional brews or not when he visits Ovambo during the Christmas holidays. Unfortunately, this could risk a relapse for him.

"Dagga is no worse than using alcohol or tobacco..."

The fact is that Dagga is very dangerous. Unlike alcohol, which usually leaves the body within 24 hours because it is water-soluble, dagga is fat-soluble, which means that the psychoactive chemicals attach themselves to the fatty parts of the body (usually the brain and reproductive organs) and can be detected up to 30 days after initial use. Extensive research has indicated that dagga impairs short-term memory and slows learning; interferes with normal reproductive functions; adversely affects heart functions; has serious effects on perception and skilled performance – such as driving and other complex tasks involving judgement or fine motor skills; and greatly impairs lung and respiratory functions. A marijuana cigarette contains more cancer-causing agents than the strongest tobacco cigarette.

"Drug abuse is a victimless crime – it only hurts the user"

The fact is that while the health and chances for leading a productive life are jeopardized for the individual drug user, he or she is not the only one to suffer. The family suffers disharmony and pain in witnessing the self-destruction of a loved one. The user's employer suffers in economic terms through lost productivity, sloppy workmanship, increased number of accidents, high absenteeism and rising health care costs.

The consumer ultimately pays for the cost of drugs in the workplace by buying inferior goods at higher prices. The taxpayers suffer because it is their money which is needed to support efforts of governments, law enforcement officials, and the treatment community in combatting drug crimes and rehabilitating users. Added to this is the financial support the user is giving to the criminal organisations which profit from drugs, and criminal activity often engaged in by the user to support the "habit". Throughout society there is suffering because of the self-indulgence of drug addiction.

EXCLUSIVE

EXCLUSIVE

THE UNITED NATION'S ROLE IN ANGOLA

Hope on a clouded horizon

AN INSIDE ACCOUNT BY ALIOUNE BLONDIN BEYE, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL IN ANGOLA

As the World Body prepares to commemorate its 50th anniversary, there is nothing more comforting than to look back on its track record and verify that the United Nations Organization, despite its difficulties, has been able to turn into reality one of the aims defined in its Charter, namely, 'to keep international peace and security' in particular by taking 'effective collective measures to pre-empt and eliminate threats to peace'. It is in this context that the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations was established to manage all crisis situations in member States or in those regions where peace is destroyed or threatened and to help restore it. The Angolan case is part of this peace effort by the United Nations Organization, as Angola became a member immediately following its independence on 11 November 1975. Since then, the country has experienced a fratricidal war to which the Organization has striven to find a satisfactory solution, in a bid to restore to the Angolan people the peace to which it is aspiring.

It would thus be in order to review the relevant actions taken by the United Nations to find a solution to the present Angolan crisis, go back to the origins of the conflict and portray the present state of United Nations efforts in the process and look at the prospects for this process.

THE GENESIS OF THE ANGOLAN CRISIS

The Angolan crisis has its origins essentially in Angola's colonial history; the country was conquered and subjugated by Portugal in early 1489. The three tribal kingdoms of the Bakongo, Mbundu and Ovimbumdu passed into the control of the colonizer. The colonial system created a segregated society, which explains to some extent the current behaviour of Angolans. The Creoles, from other Portuguese colonies, in particular Cape Verde and Sao Tomé and Principle, participated in the emergence of a society divided between the Creoles, Mestizos and Whites on the one hand and the indigenous populations on the other. The liberation movements which emerged, the MPLA of Viriato de Cruz in 1956, the FNLA of Holden Roberto in 1961 and UNITA of Jonas Savimbi in 1966, often reflected tribal, ethnic or racial divisions of the country in their actions of mass management and mobilization, as is so often the case in Africa.

Here we do not intend, within the limits set for us in this publication, to carry out the work of an exegete. Accordingly, we are happy to say that finally, after five centuries of colonization and 15 years of guerilla war-fare, Portugal freed Angola, its last African possession, in 1975. Under the Alvor Agreement of 15 January 1975, the three movements, namely MPLA, FNLA and UNITA, agreed to participate in elections scheduled for October 1975. A transitional union government by the three movements was put in place to prepare the accession to independence to be granted on 11 November 1975. In the spring of 1975, the transitional government disintegrated resulting in fighting between MPLA and FNLA in the north of the country. In July of the same year, bloody battles, with the participation of Cuban fighters, engulfed the capital, Luanda, and culminated in the victory of the MPLA and the elimination of the FNLA armed wing.

On 10 November 1975, the Portuguese authorities handed over power to the Angolan people and independence was proclaimed on 11 November of the same year.

Since then an implacable war broke out in Angola between the two movements powerfully armed and supported, the MPLA and UNITA. As the political environment of the time was based on the East-West divide, the Angolan war was quickly transformed into a war of ideological influence, with on the one hand the MPLA supported by the Soviet Union and Cuba, and, on the other, UNITA,

TURNING POINT

MAN BEHIND THE SCENE: Maitre Alioune Blondin Beye, Special Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General to Angola and former Malian Minister for Foreign Affairs

armed and supported by the United States of America and South Africa, placed in quarantine by the United Nations on account of its apartheid policy.

At this stage, it has to be emphasized that it is from 1960 onward that the United Nations became involved in Angola, with the adoption of the famous resolution on independence of the peoples which gave independence to the overwhelming majority of African States.

United Nations action was also felt in Angola through the multiple resolutions adopted against apartheid in South Africa, and by specific resolutions aimed at resolving the crisis into which the country had been plunged.

ON 30 OCTOBER 1992, FIERCE FIGHTING BROKE OUT IN LUANDA

From 1988 onward, the United Nations became actively involved in the Angolan peace process. Indeed, the United Nations Angola Verification Mission, or UNAVEM, was designed and established by the Security Council on 20 December 1988, at the request of the Angolan and Cuban Governments. Its establishment started after the signing of two agreements at the United Nations Secretariat in New York, on 22 December 1988, : one tripartite agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa and a second bilateral agreement between Angola and Cuba, on the implementation of Resolution 435 (1978) aimed at independence for Namibia and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The essential task of UNAVEM was to verify the redeployment of Cuban troops and their subsequent withdrawal from Angola. The mission's 31-month mandate was scheduled to end on 1 July 1991. That was UNAVEM I. On 17 May 1991 the Angolan Government asked the United Nations Secretary-General to extend the UNAVEM presence in Angola, so as to guarantee United Nations participation in the verification of the implementation of the Angola peace agreements signed at Bicesse on 31 May 1991, between the Angolan Government and UNITA. On 30 May 1991 the Security Council adopted Resolution 696 (1991), granting a new mandate to UNAVEM which then became UNAVEM II and established the mission for a 17-month period, until after the general elections which were held on 28 and 29 September 1992. On 1 March 1992, the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General was established at Luanda to coordinate United Nations activities related to the implementation of the Angola agreements. On 24 March 1992, the Security Council adopted Resolution 747 (1992) expanding the UNAVEM II mandate to include the role of observing the elections in Angola.

On 30 October 1992, after the United Nations had adopted Resolution 785 (1992) extending the UNAVEM II mandate until 30 November 1992, fierce fighting broke out in Luanda between the Government and UNITA forces.

This marked the start of the true involvement of the United Nations in the search for peace in Angola. On 2 November 1992, the cease-fire brokered by the United Nations Secretary-General came into force, making it possible to organize the Namibia meeting of 26 November 1992 between the Government and UNITA delegations under UNAVEM auspices. On 30 November 1992 the Security Council adopted Resolution 793 (1992) by which it decided to extend the UNAVEM II mandate until 31 January 1993. In the meantime, fighting continued in the north of Angola and on 29 January 1993, the Security Council adopted Resolution 804 (1993) extending the mandate until 30 April 1993, to enable the negotiations to be held at Addis Ababa from 27 to 30 January 1993. These negotiations, still under UNAVEM II auspices, took place from 10 to 26 February 1993 and were scheduled to resume, after a break, on 1 March 1993. On 11 March 1993 the Security Council adopted Resolution 811 (1993) inviting, among others, the United Nations Secretary-General in view of the deteriorating situation to organize a high level meeting between the Government and UNITA, to guarantee the smooth implementation of the peace agreements: this was the Abidjan meeting from 12 April to 21 May 1993. On 2 June, the Security Council adopted resolution 834 (1993) extending the UNAVEM mandate by 45 days until 15 July 1993, but reducing the staff to a minimum, to show its dissatisfaction with the failure of the Abidjan talks. On 3 June 1993, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General launched an international appeal, on behalf of the United Nations, for humanitarian assistance to the populations affected by war and drought.

By its Resolution 851, the Security Council decided to extend the UNAVEM II mandate for a further two months until 15 September 1993. This was the stage at which a new Special Representative, Maitre Alioune Blondin Beye, former Malian Minister for Foreign Affairs, came on the scene in place of Ms Margaret Anstee. The Security Council, welcoming the Secretary-General's report of 15 September 1993, adopted Resolution 804 (1993) by

EXCLUSIVE

which it decided to renew the UNAVEM II mandate for a further three months until 15 December 1993. Already by 15 November 1993, the Lusaka Peace Talks had started under United Nations auspices, culminating in the signing of the Lusaka Peace Protocol on 20 November 1994. It is important to specify that between 15 November 1993 and 20 November 1994, the Security Council adopted a number of resolutions as follows: 890 (1993) of 14 December 1993 extending the UNAVEM II mandate until 16 March 1994; 903 (1994) of 16 March 1994, extending the mandate until 31 May 1994; 922 (1994) extending the UNAVEM III mandate until 30 June 1994; 932 (1994) extending the UNAVEM II mandate until 30 September 1994; 945 (1994) of 29 September 1994, extending the mandate until 31 October 1994; 952 (1994) extending the mandate until 8 December 1994; 966 (1994) of 8 December 1994, declaring that the Council intended to reconsider the role of the United Nations Organization in Angola by 8 February 1995, by which the Security Council decided to establish UNAVEM III, with a 2-year mandate ending on 8 February 1997, to implement the Lusaka Peace Protocol.

Reference to all these resolutions fully illustrates the United Nations commitment and determination to help the Angolan people recover the peace it lost in reality since the outbreak of the liberation struggle in 1961. This intensive political and diplomatic action was accompanied by a no less impressive humanitarian assistance programme under the auspices of Unit for Coordinating Humanitarian Action (UCAH).

" The meeting – long awaited by the Angolan people and the whole of the international community – took place on 6 May 1995 at Lusaka, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Zambian President, Mr Frederick Chiluba. The two Angolan leaders, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Dr Jonas Savimbi, were publicly reconciled and described their meeting as historic, a decisive turning point, a new chapter in the history of their country."

Indeed, some 3.5 million Angolans in the accessible areas received and continue to receive humanitarian assistance. Under UCAH orientation, a programme based on agreements with the Government and UNITA was designed to guarantee the air-lift of food and other relief supplies to an average of 15 Angolan localities per week, and to other locations by road when that is possible. As peace becomes consolidated, the emphasis on relief operations will shift towards assistance to newly accessible areas; assistance in support of the quartering process; distribution of aid to vulnerable groups, instead of generalized distribution; the utilization of road corridors in addition to air corridors; and support for the reactivation of agriculture will culminate in increased self-sufficiency in food production.

Some 112,000 returnees to their localities of origin and other vulnerable groups living close to the resettlement areas receive humanitarian assistance from UNHCR. However, some 380,000 Angolan refugees live in the neighbouring countries, in particular, Zaire, Congo and Namibia. At least 100,000 of these refugees are expected to return to Angola in 1995.

Accordingly, substantial additional funding for these programmes is expected to be sourced by the donor community and the Angolan Government. The funding required stands at US$213 million, of which US$124 million is earmarked for demining and US$55.8 million for demobilization and reintegration. The consolidated Appeal launched at Geneva on 23 February 1995 by the United Nations to the major donor countries and organizations makes it possible, in view of the pledges announced, to hope that the set objectives will be achieved.

PROSPECTS:

The signing of the Lusaka Peace Protocol on 20 November 1994, following one year of arduous negotiations, turned over a new leaf in the history of Angola. Coming in an extremely tense environment with the capture by the Government forces of several UNITA strongholds, the signing ceremony of the Lusaka Protocol, in the presence of 10 Heads of States of the region, including the Angolan President, Mr José Eduardo dos Santos, was marked by the absence of the UNITA President, Dr Jonas Savimbi, who was however duly represented by the General Secretary of his movement, armed with the requisite full powers for the occasion.

This attitude by the figure of the Angolan armed opposition did not fail to cast a shadow over the event. It unquestionably reduced the psychological impact of the ceremony, even if it in no way altered the value and validity of the legal

Hope on a clouded horizon

instruments signed on that day and later ratified by the competent institutions of the two parties involved.

Thus the implementation of the Protocol has since experienced ups and downs which raised doubts in some minds: numerous cases of cease-fire violations, even if there was no actual breakdown resulting from fighting between the two armies, difficulties in the force disengagement exercise, in particular in the north, at Uige and in the centre of Huambo, hindrances in the way of communications, of the setting up of cease-fire verification mechanisms, of the free circulation of persons and goods, etc.

The international forum thus had to act on the parties to arrest this dangerous drift. Since then the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, following some ups and downs, appears currently to have returned to the tracks. For this the United Nations Organization had to remain firm in its stand on compliance by the parties with the requisite conditions stipulated in paragraph 4 of Resolution 976 (1995), for the deployment of the blue helmets who are expected to guarantee the restored climate of peace. The United Nations unavoidably needed to take a firm stand to bring the parties to take cognizance of the need to get seriously involved in the process, by complying with the conditions that lead to peace, so that the United Nations, in turn, could fully play the peace-keeping role assigned to it. In this regard, the strong recommendation concerning the meeting between the Angolan Head of State and Dr Savimbi of UNITA is of great significance. This meeting was of such a kind as to enable the consolidation of the prevailing climate of trust and of the conducive environment needed for the deployment of the blue helmets, the advanced parties of which, besides, have already arrived in Angola.

The meeting – long awaited by the Angolan people and the whole of the international community – took place on 6 May 1995 at Lusaka, under the auspices of the United Nations and the Zambian President, Mr Frederick Chiluba. The two Angolan leaders, President José Eduardo dos Santos and Dr Jonas Savimbi, were publicly reconciled and described their meeting as historic, a decisive turning point, a new chapter in the history of their country.

" Dr Savimbi acknowledged Dos Santos as the President of all Angolans and thus his President, and pledged to cooperate for the consolidation of peace wherever President Dos Santos, the Angolan people and his movement judged it necessary."

President dos Santos described Dr Savimbi as a partner and formally invited UNITA to join the country's Government and administration. Dr Savimbi acknowledged Dos Santos as the President of all Angolans and thus his President, and pledged to cooperate for the consolidation of peace wherever President Dos Santos, the Angolan people and his movement judged it necessary.

The international community welcomed the event with relief. Dr Boutros-Boutros Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, when congratulating the Angolan leaders, emphasized that their meeting was not only important for its symbolism, but especially for the momentum it would impart to the implementation of the peace process.

How can we omit to acknowledge the action of the Heads of States of the region, friends of Angola, whom the Special Representative consulted regularly and whose contribution was so decisive in promoting the new climate of peace and reconciliation which has dawned in Angola, following this memorable Lusaka meeting of 6 May 1995. It is to be hoped that this meeting, so long awaited by the international community, will fulfil the aspirations of everyone and constitute the true point of departure for the consolidation of this peace long desired by the United Nations Organisation. Furthermore, the United Nations is ready, to commit all actions necessary for the reconstruction of Angola, which necessarily passes through the creation of favourable conditions for the development of some key sectors of the national economy, such as agriculture. This implies that the mine fields which stretch over a wide part of the Angolan territory as a consequence of the war, can be removed. In this respect, the United Nations is also preparing to intervene. In the meantime, it is actively participating in distributing humanitarian aid to satisfy the populations in the greatest need. The impact of the Consolidated Appeal to donor countries in favour of Angola held at Geneva on 23 and 24 February 1995, as stated earlier, will bring the awaited solution to a good number of existing humanitarian and social problems. The same applies to the meeting of financiers which is scheduled to be held next July at Geneva to arrange the necessary funds for a true reconstruction and development programme for the country.

UN HAS SPARED NO EFFORT

In all, the United Nations Organization, within the scope of its mandate of keeping the peace and security for the period running up to February 1997 and no further, has spared no effort in managing the Angolan question, and this has made it possible to arrive at the situation of hope which begins to break on the horizon of the Angolan people which had so far been clouded. In a few weeks time, some 7,600 United Nations blue helmets will be deployed into the 6 military regions which UNAVEM organized to cover the whole of this immense Angolan territory. The same applies to the United Nations Radio which will soon transmit to the four corners of Angola, bringing messages of peace and national reconciliation to the Angolan people. It is currently the hope of everyone, men, women and children, that they can return to live a peaceful life in dignity and new-found freedom, in an Angola henceforth in a position to play its rightful role in this part of the world, by virtue of its strategic position and its immense natural resources.

Luanda, 15 May 1995

BOUTROS BOUTROS GHALI:

Pressured into irresponsible management

HELPING TO MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

By acting as a buffer between hostile parties and by monitoring cease-fires, more than 35 United Nations peace-keeping forces and observer missions have been able to restore a measure of calm while a solution to the conflict is negotiated. This month, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (centre) explained why he had no choice but to stop virtually all payments to member States for troops and equipment.

"I am here to ask for your urgent assistance in dealing with the serious financial situation we now face.

At 31 May 1995, the United Nations had debts of about US$1.5 billion. This includes about US$800 million owing to some 60 Member States for their troop and equipment contributions to peace-keeping. The United Nations also owes $375 million to vendors and suppliers. It owes Member States some $300 million for budgetary surpluses in prior years.

Also as of 31 May, member States owed the United Nations some $2.8 billion for assessments levied but not paid. Substantial additional assessments for peace-keeping operations are expected in the next months.

Member States continue to assess themselves for the expenses of the Organisation while they continue not to pay the assessments they have voted. It is only because of the prompt payment of assessments by a small number of member States that the United Nations continues to operate. It is my duty, therefore, to tell you in the most serious terms, that the financial crisis in deepening.

The amount owed to the Organisation is building up. As of the end of May, only 48 member States had paid their regular budget contributions in full. The prospects for the coming months are quite bleak. To judge from past experience, by the end of the year we will have collected only some 67% of this year's regular budget assessment. Late payment and substantial arrears are becoming a way of life.

The situation has been aggravated by the growing practice of Member States to call for new or expanded United Nations activities, without appropriating the resources to carry them out. These unfunded mandates further deplete the very limited cash resources of the UN.

This means that I am being pressured to engage in irresponsible financial management. In other words, I have been given the authority to spend money that I do not have, without a clear assurance that the necessary funds will be provided. I am expected to use funds appropriated for one mandate to finance another, unfunded, mandate. I urge member States to provide the cash to cover these activities without delay.

If we continue to pay countries for troops and equipment, we will reduce our cash to less than $200 million by the end of this year. This is not enough to cover the cash requirements for three weeks. In the circumstances, we have no choice but to stop virtually all payments to member States for troops and equipment. This means that the present troop and equipment-related debt of $800 million will rise to $1.1 billion by the end of 1995, an unprecedented and alarming amount. Even with this stoppage, the total cash available by the end of the year for the regular and peace-keeping budgets combined will be no more than the basic minimum for liquidity purposes.

I recognise that this course of action will place an even greater burden on those member States which are making substantial contributions of troops and equipment. But the steady increase of arrears leaves me no choice. I therefore appeal to those member States with substantial arrears to make special efforts to pay a significant part of their outstanding assessments.

Unless the receipt of unpaid assessments dramatically improves, I will have no choice but to further reduce spending, focusing on those activities for which no assessments have been approved. I may also have to propose curtailing activities for which assessments have been approved but have chronically not been paid.

I have already taken steps, within the means available to me, to reduce expenditures and to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of all activities. I have submitted a proposed programme budget for 1996/1997 which entails negative growth. But reductions in expenditures alone cannot overcome the financial difficulties facing the Organisation.

I ask that you urgently address every possible way of relieving this financial crisis. We must find some combination of measures that can improve this deplorable situation. Should we fail to find a solution, the United Nations will commence its fiftieth anniversary as a debt-encumbered organisation lacking the financial resources to carry out the mission that member States intend it to perform."

Talking to the people:

For the past year, a small but very determined team of professionals has spared no effort in soliciting the widest possible spectrum of views in order to arrive at a truly representative population policy for Namibia. The aim is to formulate a policy which genuinely reflects the wishes and aspirations of the Namibian people, taking into consideration the diversities of cultural practices in a multi-ethnic society. This process of consultation is set to culminate in a final draft population policy to be adopted at a national conference in mid-July.

Headed by the UNFPA Country Director James Kuriah, the team set up meetings throughout Namibia with its core staff consisting of the ILO's Oladele Arowolo: Ms Helena Rakow, head of the Population Unit in the National Planning Commission; UNFPA's National Officer Reuben Aamambo; and Dr Flavian Magari., UNFPA Chief Technical Adviser.

By undertaking these regional sensitization workshops, it is hoped that the threefold objective of education, soliciting feedback and enlisting the support of the population at large in the process of policy formulation and implementation, is achieved.

Judging from the lively and sometimes heated debates at the workshops it is evident that their task was not an easy one. Talking openly about procreation is still difficult, if not a taboo for many Namibians. Points raised by participants ranged from liberal feminist views to arguments with strong religious overtones. But everywhere, delegates were in unanimous agreement about the serious consequences of unbridled population growth in conditions of economic stagnation; and that urgent action needed to be taken.

Recurrent themes were teenage pregnancy, determining the age at which to distribute contraceptives at clinics, and sexually transmitted diseases.

Frequently in the firing line was Ms Emma Boys, who led the discussion on women's empowerment, and had to answer charges that emancipation caused the increasing breakup of marriages; that woman was created from man's rib and that she could therefore not claim equality; and was even questioned whether as to whether Namibian women had a case at all.

Another presentation which drew exclamations of disbelief and stimulated debate was that of Dr Magari, dealing with statistical evidence on Namibia's high maternal mortality rate, low rates of contraceptive use, and alarming increases in teenage pregnancies and HIV/AIDS infection over the past few years.

In pursuit of a Population Policy

by Prof. Oladele Arowolo, ILO Chief Technical Adviser at the National Planning Commission.

At present, the Government of Namibia does not have an explicit national population policy. However, official concern has been expressed over the issue, notably on the negative effects of the country's rapid rate of population growth on income, the labour market, and the pressure of population on the resources of the environment. Concerns have also been expressed over high fertility among Namibian women and teenage pregnancies in particular. Government is concerned about the plight of the youth and the need to facilitate the emancipation of women who make up more than half of the population.

Some of these concerns are being addressed through action programmes in selected sectors with the support of UNFPA. These include: Population data collection and analysis (National Planning Commission); Maternal and child health and family planning (Ministry of Health and Social Services); Population information, education and communication (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting & Ministry of Basic Education); Women and development programme (Department of Women Affairs); Youth development programme (Ministry of Youth and Sport).

In order to achieve effective coordination of these and other population activities and to provide a national focus for policy and programme formulation, a Population Planning Unit (PPU) was established in the National Planning Commission in 1993.

The unit's long-term objective is to have strengthened the institutional capacity of the National Planning Commission to promote and sustain the implementation of a national population policy as well as integrate population factors in the overall socio-economic development planning. In order to achieve this objective and related short-term goals, project strategy consists of institution building; awareness creation on the interrelationship between population and development; provision of technical support; research and policy studies; and formulate appropriate mechanisms for sectoral collaboration, continuous monitoring and periodic evaluation of project delivery.

Since its inception, PPU has been involved in educating and sensitizing planners, decision makers, and the population at large on the need to formulate a national population policy and to enlist their support. Such activities include regional and national workshops, publication of reports and the production of a biannual newsletter. The PPU has already sensitized various groups of politicians, civil servants, community and religious leaders and members of the media, in this regard. Current efforts are geared towards a national conference scheduled for July, which is expected to come up with final recommendations for a national population policy.

UNFPA allocates over one million US$ to Population Planning Unit

In order to ensure sustainability of the UNFPA project in Namibia, special emphasis is placed on capacity building. National project staff are receiving on the job training through technical support from the International Labour Organization, as well as fellowships from abroad.

The PPU project was reviewed along with other UNFPA supported projects in December 1994, the mid point of the UNFPA/GRN programme cycle of 1992 – 1996. The mid-term review recommended that the objective of the PPU should go beyond policy formulation; that UNFPA should continue to support the projects through policy formulation until a national programme is designed, its frame tested and the implementation package is firmly established. To this end, the UNFPA has provided US$536,300 in additional funds to the PPU, raising its contribution in support of this sector to US$1,019,300 for the period 1992 – 1996.

A series of population workshops were recently organised for all the regions in Namibia. Participants were mostly community leaders, who were consulted about a population policy for Namibia and informed about proposed UNFPA programme activities to curb the country's high population growth rate. Pictured left is a councillor making a point during the deliberations in Oshakati; above is a scene from a subsequent meeting for the Kunene region held in Swakopmund.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

Action plan for national food security

In response to the deteriorating food and nutrition situation in Namibia, Prime Minister Hage Geingob declared the Namibia Food and Nutrition Decade on the occasion of World Food Day in 1992. In doing so, he provided a challenge and opportunity for Namibia to address one of the most basic of human rights — a safe, adequate and reliable food supply for all of its citizens.

With firm political resolve and commitment, assistance was requested from the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations to study and assess the food security and nutrition situation in Namibia and to prepare a plan of action to address the major problems. With financial assistance from Norway, the project called Policy and Programming Assistance for a *National Food and Nutrition Action Plan*, became operational in 1994.

Conditions of rural poverty in Namibia act as major constraint to improved food security and nutrition. Children are frequently the unsuspecting victims of malnutrition.

Below: FAO researchers studying rural marketplaces which must be developed to benefit both producers and consumers.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development's Directorate of Extension and Engineering Services, headed by Mr Kahuure, is responsible for the overall implementation of the project. The Nutrition Unit of the Ministry of Health and Social Services is playing a key role in formulating the action plan while the FAO team is headed by Mr Isaacson, a food security specialist from the United States.

The project will achieve its objectives by reviewing and formulating sound sectoral policies and strategies for sustainable agricultural and rural development to improve the nutritional status of Namibians with a focus on the communal population.

It has created a forum for wide participation and cooperation within and between the country's government, the private sector, NGOs, and the academic and donor communities. Through the combined effort of Government and NGO personnel, international consultants and national experts in the fields of food security, nutrition and policy analysis, the project has completed a thorough assessment of food security and nutrition in Namibia. Eight themes were established to facilitate the formulation of the action plan: Family Food Systems and Practices; Institutional Support Systems; Health, Water and Sanitation; Infrastructure Development; Policy, Planning and Information; Production and Technology; and Ecosystem conservation and protection.

Cross sectoral working groups were established for each theme to assess the related problems, identify current activities underway to address these, identify gaps between what is actually in place and what is ultimately required to address the identified problems, and finally to prepare a set of action profiles to fill these gaps. The project team is now consolidating the work of the working groups which have formulated a set of some 40 mutually supportive actions to address problems of food insecurity and malnutrition in Namibia. It is anticipated that these actions will be implemented by the relevant ministries and NGOs in collaboration with interested donors. The coordination of implementation and future activities is the responsibility of the National Food Security and Nutrition Technical Committee and its Secretariat.

With its broad objective of improving the overall living standard and conditions of the most disadvantaged groups throughout Namibia, this FAO project has provided the United Nations system in Namibia with a somewhat unique opportunity to combine the technical expertise of the UN specialised agencies in a particularly meaningful and worthwhile manner. UNICEF, WFP and WHO have all participated actively in many of the project initiatives and made substantial financial contributions.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION

Katutura Community Radio: free access to the airwaves

Just months after the historic 1991 Windhoek Declaration resolved to promote an independent and pluralistic African media, the seeds were sown for a unique grass roots Namibian community broadcasting initiative.

Today, the Katutura Community Radio (KCR) project in Windhoek is slowly coming to fruition with only the training of sufficient volunteer presenters outstanding. The most important characteristic of the station is accessibility and programme content will be geared towards maximum participation by local residents. Control of the microphone is to be transferred from the broadcaster to the listener, ensuring that party politics and Government don't interfere with the objectives of the radio station.

CLASS OF '94 – the first group of volunteers trained to produce and present programmes for the Katutura Community Radio

Excellent cooperation between various institutions aided realisation of the project. Along with local NGOs, international donors including the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung; IBIS Denmark; the Swedish Development Agency SIDA; the UK-based International Cooperation for Development; and UNESCO came together to help make KCR a reality. Technical support, equipment, financial assistance and practical advice contributed to the birth of the new radio station. In addition, two development workers from the UK joined KCR Director Laina Bachler at the beginning of this year and have since sought the support of local non-governmental organisations and trained a dedicated group of volunteers to produce and present programmes.

The project's founders believe a participatory approach to broadcasting and the total freeing of speech to be indispensable for community upliftment and empowerment. Their vision is to reclaim the airwaves for the communities of Katutura and to use broadcast opportunities to stimulate open discussions in search for community solutions to local problems. KCR would contribute to community development in areas such as education, job creation, civic affairs and self help projects, while stimulating participatory democracy.

Broadcasting is one of the most important ways of disseminating information and, as NGOs across southern Africa constantly battle against high levels of illiteracy, radio is considered to be one of the most valuable ways of communication. Some countries in the region have already granted licences to private individuals and groups and Namibia has legislation permitting the operation of community radio stations. The desire to give priority to community based broadcasts is stated in the 1992 Communications Act.

UNESCO is fully committed to freedom of information and the enhancement of communication capacities for all. It also raises a firm voice of protest whenever press freedom is under attack and journalists are at risk.

Seventy Media Freedom Alerts in 1994

In 1994 alone, the Media Institute of Southern Africa recorded seventy media freedom 'alerts'. Based in Windhoek, one of MISA's objectives is to promote and defend press freedom, as well as take appropriate steps where freedoms are violated.

The Institute also seeks to remove obstacles and impediments to the free flow of information, and is currently working on a broadcasting development programme to promote independent and community stations.

In his message on World Press Freedom Day, UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor stressed that while press freedom was a fundamental right that should be embodied in national law, there could be no legislation for tolerance. True leadership in a democracy rested on respect and appreciation of diversity and difference, he said.

As a starting point in the challenge to create a free and pluralistic media, there can be no doubt that community-based media projects are empowering. Katutura Community Radio may be just one small example of what is happening in the region, but it is a very positive experiment with great potential.

There is hope that within the next two years, NGOs and community groups in other parts of Southern Africa will be working towards developing their own networks so that more radio stations can be launched.

In time, there could be open and free access to the airwaves for everyone.

UNITED NATIONS CHILDRENS FUND

Separate prison for juvenile offenders

Namibia is a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which was signed in September 1990. Since then, both the Namibian Government and UNICEF have embarked on various programmes and activities aimed at improving the living conditions of Namibia's children – a commitment which is presently strong at work in this part of the world.

The PROGRESS OF NATIONS report is published annually and ranks every nation according to its progress on key issues affecting the health and welfare of children. The 1995 report includes new statistical tables on health, nutrition, education, women, family planning, children's rights and presents data on current levels of overseas aid.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child, has provided an important framework for the drafting of the proposed Child Care and Protection Act, which will guarantee the rights of all children in Namibia. This is to ensure that society collectively works towards the well-being of all children up to the age of 18. Several important events have since sprung to life, namely the Day of the African Child, which was first commemorated in Namibia in 1992.

The Day of the African Child on June 16, was set aside as a special day for African children, and is being commemorated annually in Namibia. This day has been firmly supported by UNICEF, and while it concerns the children themselves, it also highlights their rights and needs. In particular, those children in Africa who have fallen into the jaws of famine, war, disease, neglect and abuse.

Another major step in the implementation of childrens' rights was a preliminary study of young offenders in Namibia, recently conducted and compiled by the Prisons Service, the Legal Assistance Centre, the Ministry of Youth and Sport and UNICEF. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child commended the Namibian government for the study, as a positive step towards addressing the plight of juveniles in conflict with the law.

The study, conducted in 1994, makes a brilliant example of revealing some disturbing statistics of children between the ages of 14 to 21, who are incarcerated in jails with adult prisoners. These facts were brought to light after a lengthy and intricate survey was conducted at all eight prisons in Namibia.

The questionnaire was aimed at young offenders aged 21 years and below, who were already convicted and were serving prison sentences. It was evident from the outcome of this research that human rights have been ignored by the agents involved in the administration of juvenile justice – including police, prosecutors, social workers, prison warders and, most important, the judiciary system.

The study revealed that 93% of all 'offenders' had been sentenced to a term of imprisonment without any legal representation whatsoever, and almost half had appeared in court without their parents or guardians being present.

93% of all juvenile offenders are sentenced to a term of imprisonment without any legal representation

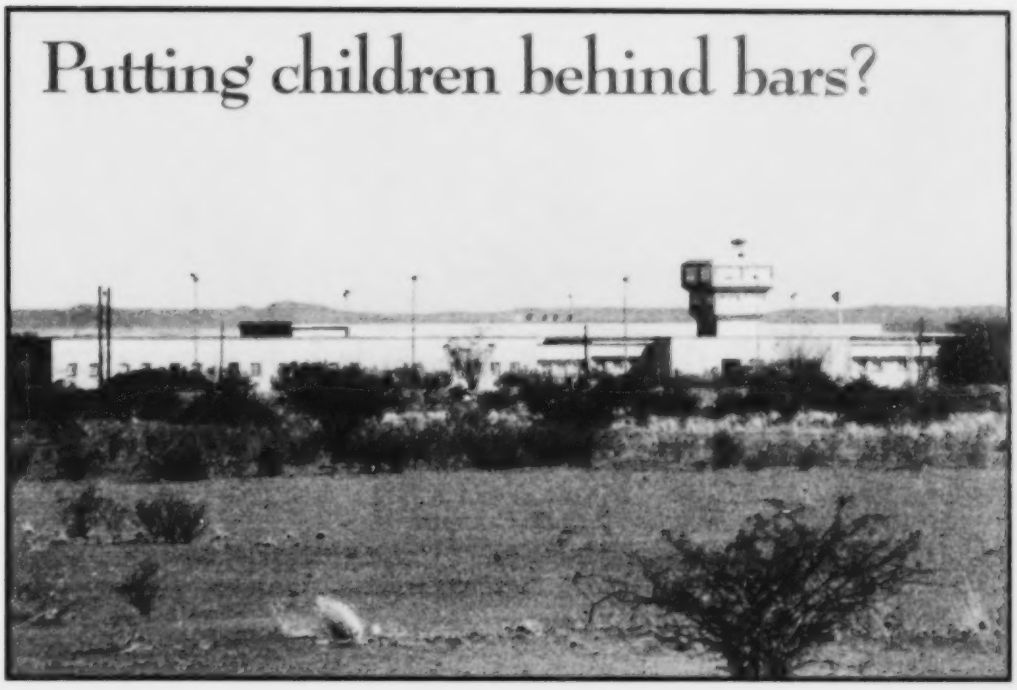
Pre-trial detention was the norm, and the respondents were in constant contact with adult prisoners, even at times shared the same cell as them, some of whom were hardened criminals. Many stated that they had been sexually, physically and emotionally abused by adult prisoners. And apart from this, they also received virtually no counselling from prison social workers, and received little support from the outside world. As a result they were generally unhappy with prison conditions.

A breakthrough came in August 1994, when a decision was passed to transfer the juvenile prisoners to Hardap Prison near Mariental, which is the second largest prison in the country. Because of its space, Hardap made available a section for juvenile prisoners – not the perfect answer, but by comparison a massive relief.

However, according to Ulrike Gomelsky, who runs an Austrian sponsored welfare organisation called *The Bridge*, certain problems have arisen even amongst the juveniles themselves, since the difference between an offender of 14 years-old and 21 years, is vast.

"Prison life is harsh, and is no place for anyone, let alone juveniles," said Ulrike who offers the prisoners a helping hand on a daily basis by visiting Hardap Prison. *The Bridge* was started in 1992, and provides rehabilitation programmes for prisoners, offers counselling group work, activities and distance education to assist children inside the prison

Putting children behind bars?



Hardap Prison, the second largest prison in Namibia which provides the only facility where young offenders with sentences of two years and over, are kept separate from the adult prisoners

" many stated that they had been sexually, physically and emotionally abused by adult prisoners"

to continue with their studies. UNICEF this year supported the organisation with stationery and text books for Grades 10 and 12, thus enabling Hardap prisoners to take their exams in 1995.

"The separation of juvenile prisoners has played a very important role so far," said Ulrike, who believes that we need more than one prison in the country for juveniles, in particular in the capital and in the North.

Further as part of the Juvenile Justice programme, Windhoek's Multipurpose Youth Resource Centre in Katutura, run by the Ministry of Youth and Sport, are presently in the initial stages of planning a prison outreach programme, aimed in particular at the Windhoek Prison. This outreach programme plans on making available project workers to visit the prison at least twice a week to meet with juveniles presently in the Windhoek prison, and offer them the following programmes: health, literacy, life skills, recreation or group therapy work. This is aimed at prisoners under 21 years old.

With only six social workers and over 2,000 prisoners at the Windhoek Prison, the juvenile prisoners are being overlooked. It is for this reason that the Youth Centre has initiated the outreach programme to provide manpower to tackle the needs of juvenile prisoners.

Meanwhile, the Legal Assistance Centre is currently involved in drafting legislation to bypass the justice system for juveniles. This in turn has led to the establishment of a Juvenile Justice Forum. Members of the Forum include representatives from the ministries of Health and Social Services, Justice, Youth and Sport, Home Affairs, Education and Culture, Regional and Local Government and Housing, UNICEF as well as NGO representatives who are active in the area of youth.

The idea is to ensure that youth are only processed through the criminal justice system in extreme cases and that, where possible, diversions to the criminal justice system are put into operation.

The essence of this proposal is that the criminal justice system should be the last resort for dealing with young offenders and that diversions should be the route taken.

COURTS ARE OVERLOADED WITH JUVENILES CHARGED WITH MINOR OFFENCES

At the centre of any reform effort involving juvenile justice, the rights and special needs of the child must be of primary concern. This requires restructuring the existing system and after a careful analysis of practical means of implementation, the following priorities have been identified:

➢ Speeding up the process of getting children out of prisons

➢ Children currently awaiting trial in prison or police cells should be attended to as a priority

➢ The need for diversion has to be understood and accepted by all role-players including police, magistrates and prosecutors and should occur on three levels:

➢ Diversion from arrest and awaiting trial detention

➢ Diversion from court procedures by linking juveniles into special prgrammes

➢ Diversion from prison sentences in the form of community-based alternative sentencing options.

In conclusion, advocates of juvenile justice state that children who fall foul of the law are often victims of harsh socio-economic circumstances and of a violent world filled with violent role models. The courts are overloaded with juveniles charged with minor offences, and as a result serious offenders are not given the necessary attention to halt their journey of destruction.

The Juvenile Justice Forum with support from the Government, UNICEF and other interested parties can play an important role in bringing society to take a united stand on this once and for all.

CONDOMS FOR AFRICA

Volunteers tackle rural ignorance about AIDS

IF IT IS NOT ON, IT IS NOT ON — distributing condoms in Windhoek's Zoo Park are Vincent Taylor and Kevin van Zyl pictured during their truly grassroots AIDS awareness campaign.

Kevin van Zyl and Vincent Taylor are two South Africans who are presently undertaking an AIDS campaign trip known as *Condoms for Africa Walk* across the continent, from Cape Town to Cairo. The journey on foot is expected to last for more than two years.

The two have decided to walk with the aim of complementing the efforts of authorities in creating awareness about the dangers of HIV/AIDS and try to educate the people on the use of condoms as one of the measures. Based on slogans: 'Whenever you do it, do it with a condom' and 'If it is not on, it is not on'. The trip is combining the education campaign against the spread of HIV/AIDS with the distribution of condoms to the public.

"...if there is only but one person whom we could persuade to use a condom and as a result doesn't contract HIV/AIDS, then that is our success"

With HIV infections escalating by the day in South Africa, the two men's idea of walking for condoms came to them after having lost friends who died from AIDS and having to watch others live with the disease. The two men claim that about 700 to 800 people are being diagnosed HIV positive each day and that the number of cases in South Africa amount to about 850 000. "It is the scariest thing that can happen to the country," Vincent remarked.

Vincent and Kevin noticed that there was a lack of awareness among the majority of people on the dangers of the killer disease and especially on the aspect of prevention. Though authorities were doing their best, the two men realised that there were still people in the outlying areas who needed help because they did not know where to get information to answer their many questions about AIDS.

"These are the people we are trying to reach through our walk. We believe that some one has to do something – and the time to act is now."

Initially, the group had four members but two could unfortunately not make it beyond the South African boarder because they are HIV positive and their condition was progressing into a full blown AIDS.

The walkers have been distributing condoms to people all along the way. Before they left South Africa, they already handed out about 35, 000 condoms to people on the streets, restaurants, pubs, beer halls, trains and generally to the whole public, especially to those in the rural areas. Their education campaign is also directed at school children and they have been conducting talks in schools and at places where teenagers play and at pools. They have been handing out pamphlets, condoms and talking to people about HIV/AIDS.

Though Kevin and Vincent have come along people who appear to know about HIV/AIDS in both South Africa and Namibia, they still believe that education is much needed among the people. They cited some ignorant questions they were confronted with by the people such as: "If I apply vaseline on my penis, would it not protect me from becoming infected with HIV?"

Vincent sees it this way: "The most important thing is that the more people we speak to, the better. But then, for us the question of success on our trip lies on simply one thing; is there value to human life? So out of our whole trip from Cape to Cairo, if there is only but one person whom we could persuade to use a condom and as a result doesn't contract HIV/AIDS, then that is our success."

Kevin and Vincent intend to travel through Namibia's Caprivi strip into Zambia to Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya through Burundi and Rwanda, Sudan and into Egypt.

The route was chosen for some reasons including the fact that it is shorter and that countries such as Rwanda and Burundi are going through massive problems because of wars and conflicts and they think that their message may be valuable there. They have admitted that they will meet problems especially when it comes to language and culture. Some people do not openly discuss about sex and they wouldn't expect miracles in people's attitudes towards condom use. "We are aware there are taboos about sex and sexual behaviours in different communities".

The walk is not aimed at raising funds in any way and the two men said they have made no specific preparations for the trip except that they are prepared both mentally and physically to go through all situations. However, for their upkeep they depend on selling art works Kevin produces as they go along, including comics on AIDS and T-shirts.

Upon arrival at any given place, they find out how many schools, hospitals, clinics and other popular places there are and contact those in charge for permission to give a talk on AIDS to the people. Up to now, this strategy has worked well and sometimes their schedule is filled by giving between three to five talks to schools a day.

On their return to South Africa, the two expect to share their experiences and be vigorous to do more than they had done before they left. "When I get back to South Africa, I will tell my people to wake up because at the moment they are fast asleep" Kevin said.

The two South Africans are thankful to the people who have offered them accommodation. "They have helped us in many small ways". Vincent concluded on this note; "there are so many people out here who do care about AIDS and they care about what we are doing and we feel that what we are doing is worth while."

by Kalemi Hivalwa, Health Information Assistant with the World Health Organisation.

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

An overview of activities in Namibia

Due to an increasing awareness of industry's impact on every developing nation's attempt to achieve a better quality of life for its people, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) was established in 1967. In acknowledgment of the contribution of industrial development to achieve economic growth, UNIDO became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1985 with the mandate to act as the central coordinating body for industrial activities within the UN system and to promote and accelerate industrial development and cooperation at global, regional, national and sectorial levels.

The Organisation has 167 member States and assists both governments and the private sector through technical cooperation, policy advice, investment promotion and technical support services.

In Namibia, UNIDO's programme is still at the developmental stage. However, an Industrial Sector Programme Review Mission has recently been fielded to assess areas of cooperation within the framework of UNIDO's objectives. Special focus will be given to institutional capacity building; human resource development; assistance to specific sub-sectors such as mining or fishing; environmental impact of industrial development; women in development.

So far, UNIDO's efforts were geared towards surveying the current industrial situation in specific sectors through several needs assessment missions. This was done to identify constraints and opportunities of industrial development and to ensure accurate background information for further assistance in these sectors.

In 1994, UNIDO conducted a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the industrial development achievements in Namibia, which was published under the title 'Namibia – New Avenues of Industrial Development'. This is a valuable and accurate source of information, not only for international agencies involved with industrial policy or planning, but also for governments, investors, entrepreneurs or research institutes.

Further, a study on industrial human resource development was conducted, which resulted in a project proposal with the objective of enhancing knowledge about innovative management styles and systems.

There are also some ongoing UNIDO projects, like providing assistance to the Ministry of Trade and Industry with setting up a computerised industrial statistical system in Namibia to ensure that data collected from industrial surveys is processed according to international standards. The first output of this project was the publication of a Survey on Manufacturing Enterprises in Namibia 1993, which in future will be released on a regular basis. Further activities planned under this project include assistance with conducting a census on manufacturing establishments and training of ministerial staff in industrial statistics.

UNIDO's programme development is progressing fast and aims to contribute to Namibia's industrial development by offering its services in selected niche areas, where the agency can assist with its specific technical and industrial expertise:

- in order to promote women's involvement in industrial activities, two needs assessment missions have been fielded in the areas of women entrepreneurs in food-processing and textiles, respectively. The programme is currently under formulation and project implementation might start in 1995 upon availability of funds.
- to undertake a study and conduct a workshop in late 1995 on technology policy and development in Namibia.
- UNIDO will provide assistance to the Ministry of Mines and Energy with the implementation of the Mining Act of 1992 by providing an international expert on title management.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Breakfast in Namibia

BY MAUREEN DAWSON
Project Officer with the World Food Programme in Namibia.

At 10h30, Dawap Haoep lined up with his friends at Tamariskia Primary School to received his bowl of hot porridge cooked by aunty Thesnelde and aunty Credula. He wondered how it was that now he was eating breakfast at school when he had never had breakfast at home.

This article is about how and why Dawap Haoep, along with 60,000 other pre-school and school aged children, are eating a meal at school every day of the school year. It is also about how and why the World Food Programme is involved in this and many other food aid projects.

The world at a global level is capable of producing enough food for all, but unfortunately it is disproportionately divided amongst countries which either have too much or not enough. Often the poorest of the poor are hungry whilst at the same time surplus food is being wasted by wealthy nations.

Even when these nations attempted to provide surplus food to poor nations, they discovered that this often had a disastrous effects on that country's food security in the longer term. The lesson learnt was that food aid is a very complex issue which requires a global approach to ensure that those countries which have too much can work in partnership with those who have too little to achieve sustainable development for all.

Thus the World Food Programme (WFP) began with a clear global mandate to save lives in refugee and other emergency situations, to use food aid to support economic and social development, to improve the nutrition and quality of life of the poorest people – particularly at critical times in their lives – and to do this in a way which promotes their self-reliance and economic independence.

The WFP is often seen in action on news screens trucking and air freighting food into areas which have been hit by disasters both man-made and natural. However, little is known about its international role of matching needs from countries who are not food secure with the availability of food throughout the world. These food donations now value over N$7000 million per year.

WFP's work in Namibia is a good example of how WFP operates because it has assisted the government in emergency relief, technical support and providing food aid to be used for development projects. WFP first provided food aid to Namibians when they were in exile during the independence struggle. It then provided additional food aid for their repatriation back into Namibia after independence and also assisted the government of Namibia to overcome the hardship caused by the 1992 drought with over $11 million dollars worth of food aid.

During that time, the organisation was also a key source of technical advice on the management of food aid and the appropriate development of structures, policies and procedures to ensure that it is effectively targeted. Most of this work is now completed with the government of Namibia, clearly prepared, experienced and competent to deal with future disasters and emergencies.

WFP was also able to assist the government to develop a school feeding project through the provision of food aid and technical support. This project was required because although education was offered to all, many children did not go to school. Many lived over 5-10 kilometres from school. Often they would walk to school, attend classes and walk home without any food in their stomachs. WFP was clearly aware that a child can not learn to full potential with a stomach which has been empty for

" The sale of vegetable oil raised N$6 million for the purchase of maizeblend for children "

over 18 hours. Namibia's low school attendance rates reflected this reality.

The government identified that many children did not come to school because their parents were unaware of the importance of education and therefore did not encourage it. Having not been able to go to school themselves, or perhaps having a negative experience of education, parent involvement in school life required encouragement and support. WFP therefore agreed to seek international donors to provide food aid to the value of $17 million for a four-year national Namibian school feeding project.

A CHILD CANNOT LEARN WITHOUT EATING FOR 18 HOURS

The project was designed to help children to attend school on a regular basis. It also provided an opportunity for the parents to be involved in school life through encouraging them to volunteer to cook the food at school, raise funds for other items and to participate in policy decisions regarding the implementation of the programme. Pre-schools were also included into the project. This helped provide a quality preparation for school and to stimulate the growth of much needed child-care in the poorer areas, particularly for female heads of households.

With the technical assistance of WFP, the government decided that the best meal to serve Namibian children was maize, blended with dried skim milk, sugar and salt. This is cooked at school and mixed with vegetable oil.

Once the product was decided on, WFP was responsible for procuring the food required on behalf of the government. WFP identified that it was inappropriate to import cereal products to Namibian as this could have a negative affect on government policy to encourage local production. This issue was discussed extensively with government officials. Vegetable oil was identified as a product which would always need to be imported into Namibia. It was therefore agreed that WFP should seek international donations of vegetable oil, which could be imported to Namibia, sold in the open market and the money raised from this sale used to purchase locally milled maiseblend.

The Namibian School Feeding project has over the last 2 years sold oil donated from Australia, and more recently the European Community. This oil is of the highest grade and has found its way onto supermarket shelves all over Namibia whilst at the same time raising over $6 million dollars to purchase maizeblend for children. The sale of vegetable oil within Namibia also benefits the Namibian consumer as well the country's balance of payments.

These considerations are important for the long term goal of food security for all Namibians. So too was the decision to ensure that all non food items required by the project should be purchased from local community groups in poorer areas. Aprons, stoves, cooking utensils and school shelters were thus procured locally, even if this means considerable extra work for WFP Officers.

Not all Namibian children require school feeding and therefore there is a need to protect valuable international donations of food for those who need it most. Assessment criteria were developed. Originally, the project focused on the drought affected and non food producing areas in the South, and currently it provides food to 340 pre-schools and schools located in every region in Namibia. In the future, the project will focus on expanding its operations to food insecure, rural and remote areas in the North. These areas have the lowest educational standards and high absenteeism. It will also focus on providing support to marginalized groups within broader communities.

WFP's technical assistance to the government of Namibia was aimed at ensuring that the project was efficient and effective. When the organisation concludes its involvement in 1997, it is hoped that the Namibian government will continue with the project.

PREVENTING STARVATION

Some two million tons of food aid donated by 90 countries is distributed each year by the World Food Programme, reaching a high in 1985 when roughly 70% of the aid was channeled to African nations stricken by drought and famine. The United Nations also addresses chronic hunger and rural poverty through the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) which has developed a credit system benefiting over 230 million of the poorest people in about 100 developing countries. Above, a child watches a WFP barge sail back to Nasir in southern Sudan after distributing food to nearby villages.

However, all of this is rather too complex for Dawap Haoep and he does not need to know very much about it. He may see the CCN truck pull up at the school to deliver the food, or, the Ministry of Basic Education official who monitors the school feeding. He may notice that his mother attends regular parent meetings and volunteers to cook once a week at the local pre-school. He may also know that his aunties get very cross if he has not collected his share of fire wood for the stove or washed his plate after the meal. All the World Food Programme wants him to know is that his school cares enough to provide him with a meal to help him learn better. Hopefully he and his mother will feel good about this and hopefully Dawap will get the most he can from his precious school time.

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE

Focus on Commerce, Trade and Industry

Global industrialization is one of the most important vehicles for creating and transferring knowledge and information – access to which is indispensable for sustainable human development and social progress. The following publications can be consulted at UNIC's reference library:

- Industrial Statistics Yearbook
- Industrial Commodity Statistics Yearbook, 1992
- National Accounts Statistics: main aggregates and detailed tables, 1991 & 1992
- System of National Accounts, 1993
- UNCTAD Statistical Pocket Book, 1994
- Statistical Survey on Insurance and Reinsurance Operations in Developing Countries, 1983-1990
- Statistical Yearbooks, 38th and 39th Issues
- Statistical Data Editing
- Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics, 1992 & 1993
- Energy Statistics Yearbooks, 1991 & 1992
- Energy Balances and Electricity Profiles, 1992
- Trends in International Distribution of Gross World Product: National Accounts Statistics
- Gas Statistics & Coal Statistics
- Transport Statistics
- Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America
- African Industry in Figures, 1993
- Procurement Sources of Goods and Professional Services in Zimbabwe, India, Turkey, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, etc
- Rehabilitation Engineering
- World Engineering Industries and Automation: performance and prospects, 1993-1995
- Transnational Corporations
- Trade Data Elements Directory, 1993
- Transport of Dangerous Goods: Recommendations
- Industry and Development: Global Report, 1992/1993
- World Trade in Steel
- Annual Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products
- Directory of Chemical Producers and Products
- Market Trends for Selected Chemical Products, 1985-1990 and Prospects to 1995
- Commodity Yearbooks, 1993 & 1994
- Managing the Development Project: a training curriculum
- Industrial Development Review Series: Namibia, Hungary, Liberia, Egypt, Angola, Indonesia, Lithuania, Mongolia, Ethiopia and Lao People's Democratic Republic
- UNCTAD Review, 1993 & 1994
- Reports of the Trade & Development Boards
- Trade and Development Reports, 1993 & 1994
- Securing Growth and Development: a guide to UNCTAD: 30 years and beyond
- Small and Medium-sized Transnational Corporations
- The Outcome of the Uruguay Round: An initial assessment: supporting papers to the Trade & Development Report, 1994
- Compendium of Trade Facilitation Recommendations
- Directory of Electronic Data Processing Centres and Experts in Africa, 1991
- Software Industry: current trends and implications for developing countries
- Structural Changes in Consumption and Trade in Steel
- Guide to Training Opportunities for Industrial Development, 1995
- Recommendations on Tourism Statistics
- Review of Maritime Transport, 1993
- The World's Leather Products Industry: a study of production, trade patterns and future trends
- Acquisition of Marine Surveying Technologies
- Low-waste Technologies in Engineering Industries
- Impact of Developments in Scrap Reclamation and Preparation on the World Steel Industry
- Power Generation Options: Rehabilitation for Life Extension and Cogeneration
- Trends in Environmental Impact Assessment of Energy Projects
- Energy Efficiency in Transportation: Alternatives for the future
- Consolidated List of Products whose Consumption and /or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments
- European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and Protocol of Signature done at Geneva on 30 September 1957: 2 Volumes
- Commodity Indexes for the Standard International Trade Classification, Revision 3

From left Judika Makhetha, ILO Senior Advisor to Namibia together with UNIC Director Finjap Njinga and Labour Permanent Secretary Tuli Hiveluah during the launching of the World Employment Report which can be obtained through UNIC at a purchase price of US$20. The 1995 edition of the World Labour Report was released at the same occasion.

NEW ARRIVALS

- Guide to Information at the United Nations
- National Accounts Statistics: main aggregates and detailed tables, 1992: Parts I & II
- Poverty and the Environment: reconciling short-term needs with long-term sustainability goals: a document for discussion, dialogue and debate
- World Employment, 1995 an ILO Report – a comprehensive review of the worldwide employment crisis, surveying global employment trends, examining competing explanations for the emergence of the employment crisis and discussing major policy options for solving it
- 1995 World Labour Report
- United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights, 1994
- The State of the World's Children, 1995
- World Engineering Industries and Automation: Performance and Prospects, 1993-1995
- Annual Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products, 1992
- Directory of Chemical Producers and Products, 1995
- European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and Protocol of Signature done at Geneva on 30 September 1957
- An Agenda for Peace, 1995
- An Agenda for Development, 1995
- Agricultural Review for Europe, No. 37, 1993 and 1994: Volume III: the Milk and Dairy Products Market
- Readings in Sustainable Forest Management
- Rambutan Cultivation
- Pesticide Application Equipment for Use in Agriculture: Volume I: Manually Carried Equipment
- The Development of Independent Co-operatives in Zambia – a case study
- A Systematic Approach to Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Control
- Transition and Price Stabilization Policies in East European Agriculture
- Structural Adjustment and Agriculture: African and Asian Experiences
- Compendium of Food Consumption Statistics from Household Surveys in Developing Countries Volume II: Africa, Latin America and Oceania
- Technical Consultation on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing
- Report of the Sixth Session of the Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission Working Party of Experts on Inland Fisheries, Bangkok, Thailand, 17-21 October 1994 and Report of the Regional Symposium on Sustainable Development of Inland Fisheries under Environmental Constraints

BOOK REVIEW

A GUIDE TO INFORMATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations produces a vast amount of information on every aspect of international life – from peacekeeping to the environment, from children's rights to air safety. Discovering what information is available, and from where, can however be a time-consuming process.

A Guide to Information at the United Nations is designed to make access to this information easier for those interested in the work of the Organization, such as the media, non-governmental organizations and researchers. It contains short entries on each of the principal organizations and bodies in the United Nations System, briefly describing what they do, the kind of information available and whom to contact for further questions.

In addition, a comprehensive index provides the names of the United Nations offices dealing with the major areas of international and regional concern.

Human Rights Fax Hot Line

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, has established a Human Rights Fax Hot Line in Geneva, a 24-hour fax line for victims of human rights violations, their relatives and NGOs.

This will allow the UN Centre for Human Rights in Geneva to monitor and react as quickly as possible to human rights emergencies, such as the 1994 crisis in Rwanda.

The Hot Line will be especially valuable to those wishing to establish urgent, potentially lifesaving contact with the Special Proceures Branch of the Centre.

THE HOT LINE FAX NUMBER IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND IS 41 22 917 0092

Calendar 1995

24 July – 4 August
United Nations Conference on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, Fifth Substantive Session (New York, USA)

7 – 4 August
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention to Combat Desertification, Seventh Session (Nairobi, Kenia)

4 – 15 September
Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, China)

22 – 24 October
General Assembly Special Commemorative Meeting for the UN 50th Anniversary (New York, USA)

24 October
United Nations 50th Anniversary

6 – 17 November
Second Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Djakarta, Indonesia)

19 – 22 November
Habitat II International Conference on 'Best Practices in Improving Living Environments' (Dubai, United Arab Emirates)

1996 – International Year for the Eradication of Poverty

3 – 14 June
United Nations Conference on Human Settlements — Habitat II (Istanbul, Turkey)

TOWARDS A DEMOCRATIC WORLD ORDER

"...agreement among the Permanent Members must have the deeper support of the other members of the Security Council, and the membership more widely, if the Council's decisions are to be effective and endure" – UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in 'An Agenda for Peace'

BY BANKIE FORSTER BANKIE

A synopsis of a paper delivered at the 5th Annual Conference of the African Society of International and Comparative Law held in Accra, September 1993.

Whereas history has been witness to many civilisations and cultures, the cradle of western civilisation was Egypt and law came from there being enriched by the Greek and Roman civilisations. If we accept the proposition that English has become the hegemonic language in the world today – as stated by Associate Professor Andre Du Pisani in a lecture entitled 'Pan Africanism, the death of an ism ?'– we likewise have to accept that international law, as applied in modern diplomacy, is based on western jurisprudential precepts which have also become hegemonic.

With due deference to the diversity of power-centres in world history, we note that the concept of the modern state and the origins of international law can be traced to the cockpit of Europe in the seventeenth century. The relations of Europe with the rest of the world were based on imperial authority and maintained through force of arms. The 'civilising mission' concept emerged much later, as a justification for colonial plunder and subjugation.

The League of Nations, product of the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, created the first international organisation and its member states undertook a covenant to provide collective security. The League was constituted by mainly European States (the United States of America did not become a member) and consisted of a Council and an Assembly. The two chambers had difficulty in defining the scope of their responsibilities, which contributed to the organisation's inability to avert the Second World War.

Ultimately, the League of Nations dissolved itself and some States, anxious to fill the void, became key players in formulating the Charter of the United Nations at Teheran in 1943, at Dumbarton Oaks in 1944, at Yalta in 1945 and finally at the San Francisco Conference in 1945. The motive was not to create a world government, but more a collective security system supervised by the Security Council with the authority to bind members.

Up to this century, western perceptions of international law recognised entities having the attributes of a state as 'subjects' (e.g. Japan), while communities it perceived as lacking a centrally organised authority were considered as 'objects' of conquest (e.g. Africa). After the revolutions in the Soviet Union and The People's Republic of China, the international community delayed its recognition of these States which, in their view, failed to meet the qualifications of 'civilised subjects' of the international community.

It was the work of the socialist countries and the newly independent States within the United Nations during the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's, which invigorated its deliberations and brought fresh air to its procedures. The struggles surrounding their promotion of principles such as the 'Right to Development', the 'Sovereign Equality of States' and the 'New International Economic Order', created a better climate for democracy and understanding within the UN system.

In sum, one observes that the socialist and developing countries enriched and further developed human international law, representing a shift away from its old imperial and militaristic origins.

"AFRICA'S SUPPORT FOR THE UNIVERSALITY OF HUMAN RIGHTS MAINLY A LIP SERVICE TO GENERATE FURTHER DONOR AID"

However, these states were largely undemocratic in their domestic policies and more often than not failed to respect human rights within their territorial borders. In June 1993 at the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, the universality of human rights was widely accepted, even though Africa's support for the concept was mainly a lip service to generate further donor aid.

At the United Nations, its two Chambers were not equally weighted. The powerful founding members of the organisation got themselves constituted into a Security Council of fifteen members,

'SURRENDER OF FLAGS AND ANTHEMS IN THE COLLECTIVE INTEREST'

five of whom were permanent members with veto powers over resolutions coming from the General Assembly constituted today largely by developing countries.

With the end of the Cold War and the concept of Proletarian Internationalism, most of the former socialist countries hitched their future to one or more of the Great Powers, obliging developing countries to find new friends. However, the concept of democracy in diplomatic relations – rather than naked imperialism and gun-boat diplomacy – was already accepted as the correct form of multilateral relations. Thus, the close of the twentieth century has seen increasing demands from the developing world to democratise the Security Council. It must also be noted that whereas the movement in international relations has shifted in the last ten years from the bipolar to the unipolar optique, the vision for the future is multipolar.

The Organisation for African Unity has applied for a permanent seat for Africa on the Security Council – however some developed countries are seeking such rights as well. Respectfully it is suggested that if the United Nations is to secure its role and relevance for the future, it will need to adapt to changing times. Whatever the demands of *realpolitik* today, logically the General Assembly should be the clearing-house for all international issues and its fiat should be maintained, regulated and reviewed by a Security Council whose membership reflects the composition of the General Assembly on a regional basis.

Permanence and veto authority for individual countries within the Security Council should give way to rotating membership by way of regional representation. It is suggested that this movement be determined in inverse ratio to the progress within developing countries towards democracy and human rights respectively.

The permanent representation of Africa in the Council will only become an irresistible argument if the African unity movement is seen to coalesce, with the voluntary surrender of 'flags and anthems' in the collective interest.

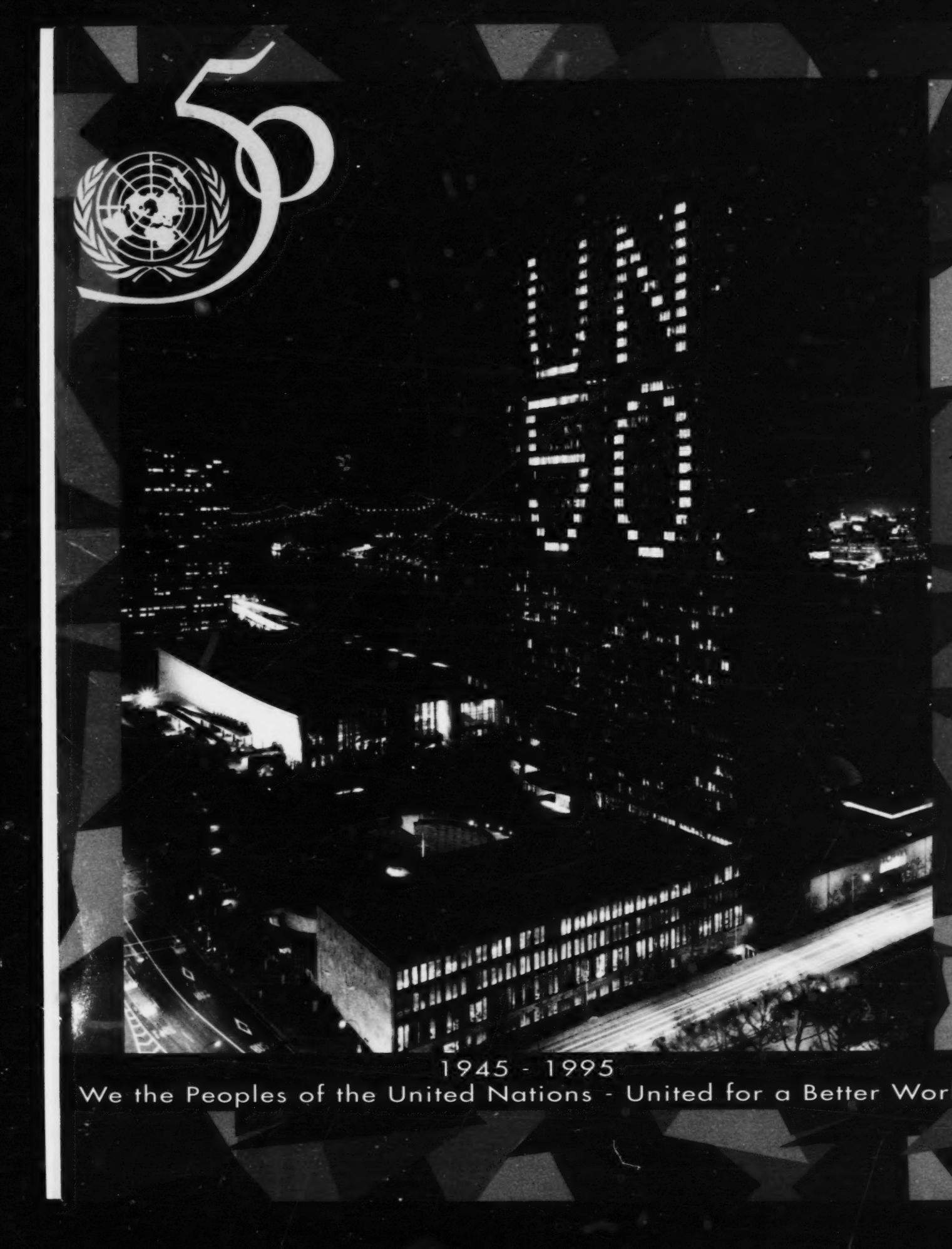
Basic Facts

Under the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Council has 15 members: five permanent members (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) and 10 elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

Each member of the Council has one vote. While decisions on procedural matters are made by an affirmative vote of at least nine of the 15 members, decisions on substantive matters require nine votes including the concurring votes of all permanent members. This is the rule of 'great Power unanimity', often referred to as the 'veto power'. All five permanent members have exercised the right of veto at one time or another. If a permanent member does not support a decision but does not wish to block it through a veto, it may abstain.

Under the Charter, all members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.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